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General Assembly

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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children
Second substantive session
New York, 29 January-2 February 2001
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Organizational arrangements for the preparatory process and the special session

Draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly on children

Note by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee

1. The Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children has the honour to bring the following to the attention of the Committee.

I. Introduction

2. In its resolution 54/93 of 7 December 1999, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2001 a special session for the follow-up to the World Summit for Children. In its resolution 55/26 of 20 November 2000, the Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene the special session from 19 to 21 September 2001 and to refer to the special session as the "special session on children". Taking into account the special sessions of the General Assembly already scheduled for 2001, the special session on children will be the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly.

II. Draft provisional agenda for the special session

3. In accordance with the practice of previous special sessions, the following draft provisional agenda for the special session is proposed:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of the President of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children.

* A/AC.256/7.

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6. Organization of the session.

7. Adoption of the agenda.

_. Substantive item(s) [to be completed]

_. Adoption of the final document(s).

III. Organizational arrangements for the special session

4. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of decisions already taken by the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements for the special session set forth below are proposed.

Date and duration

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/26, the special session shall be held from 19 to 21 September 2001.

Title of the special session

6. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 55/26, the title of the special session should be as follows: "Special Session of the General Assembly on Children".

President

7. The special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

Vice-Presidents

8. The Vice-Presidents of the special session should be the same as those of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

9. The General Assembly should establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-seventh Special Session.

10. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should consist of one Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom would serve as Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee would serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Credentials Committee

11. The Credentials Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

General Committee

12. The General Committee should consist of the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Rules of procedure

13. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply to the special session.

Allocation of items

14. All items of the draft provisional agenda should be considered directly in the plenary of the special session; the substantive item(s) should also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Level of representation

15. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/93, participation shall be at the highest possible level.

Schedule of plenary meetings

16. Six plenary meetings would be held, as follows:

Wednesday, 19 September
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday, 20 September
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, 21 September
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Debate in plenary

17. Statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session should be limited to five minutes.

18. The list of speakers for the debate in plenary would be established by a drawing of lots.

19. Member States, the Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, would be invited to participate in the drawing of lots.

20. The order of precedence for the list of speakers would be as follows: (a) heads of State/heads of Government; (b) Vice-Presidents/Crown Princes or Princesses; (c) the highest ranking official of the Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer; (d) Deputy Prime Ministers; (e) Ministers; (f) Vice-Ministers; and (g) Chairmen of delegations.

Participation of Member States

21. In its resolution 55/26, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the full and effective participation of Member States in the special session. In its resolutions 54/93 and 55/26, the Assembly invited the participation of heads of States and Governments in the special session.

Participation of speakers other than Member States

22. Observers may make statements in the debate in plenary as follows:

(a) A number of organizations and entities have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly;

(b) In accordance with resolutions 54/93 and 55/26, States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations may participate in the special session as observers;

(c) In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/26, the following associate members of the regional commissions may participate in the special session as observers, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly: American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Niue, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands.

23. Entities of the United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, with specific expertise in the subject matter of the special session, might participate in the debate in plenary provided that they are represented at the highest level. Representatives of the United Nations system might also make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

24. A limited number of representatives of non-governmental organizations with specific expertise in the subject matter of the special session might be invited to participate in the debate in plenary, given availability of time. Non-governmental organizations would select spokespersons among themselves and would provide the list thereof to the President of the General Assembly through the Secretariat. The President of the General Assembly would be invited to select those non-governmental organizations that would participate in the debate in plenary, on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the geographical representation and diversity of non-governmental organizations. Representatives of non-governmental organizations might also make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

25. The last two speaking slots at each plenary meeting, with the exception of the first and last plenary meetings, might be reserved for participants other than Member States, the Holy See, Switzerland and Palestine provided that they are represented at the highest level.

26. The arrangements outlined in paragraphs 23 to 25 above would in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly.